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which followed the Madras price with slight variations due to the varying transport charges that were paid for transporting the sugar from the supplying centres to the consuming areas. The wholesale price of sugar in the Madras City during the control period up to 8th December 1947 varied from Rs. 342 in July 1947 to Rs. 643 per ton in November 1947. After de-control, the price of sugar fluctuated and after reaching a maximum of Rs. 1,187 per ton in February 1948 has been falling down with slight fluctuations. The fluctuations in the price were entirely due to the market conditions and the increase in price is attributed to the increased cost of cultivation of sugarcane and the high prices that had to be paid to the sugarcane growers by the factories.

" (c) No. The Government will, however, make the necessary enquiry referred to in this clause, if a need arises therefor."

3-15 p.m. SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know when the Government propose to make the enquiry because it will be necessary to have proper data for fixing the minimum price of sugarcane?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The Government have already fixed the cane prices. I do not think the Government feel any necessity to alter the prices."

Alleged statement made by Hon. the Minister for Firka Development.

* 162 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of a news-item in " The Mail ", dated 15th November 1948, wherein the Hon. the Minister for Firka Development is reported to have stated " The Government and its machinery had become expensive organizations; to dig a well of 6 feet width and 30 feet depth costs only Rs. 600 for a private individual whereas the P.W.D. authorities estimate it at Rs. 3,000 ";

(*b*) whether the report is correct, and if so, whether the Government have taken any steps to reduce the expense of Government organizations; and

(*c*) if the report is not correct, what is the correct version of the speech?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) Yes. The Hon. Minister expressed only his personal opinion on the matter.

" (*c*) Does not arise."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is it fair, Sir, to the Government that individual Ministers should go on expressing their personal opinions which may cast reflections on the working of the departments under their Colleagues? "

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Hon. Minister's observations should not be taken as a reflection on the working of the department. The Hon. Minister evidently intended to urge on the Public Works Department the need for economy in the matter of designs for wells. The difference arises regarding the designs, the nature of the soil and also the nature of the wells which have to be sunk."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" When an Hon. Minister of the Government says that ' the Government and its machinery had become expensive organizations ' and when it is not contradicted, will not the public take it that what the Hon. Minister says is a fact? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" We too are anxious to cut down the expenditure on Governmental organizations."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Is it not a fact that the expenditure incurred by the Public Works Department for constructing the same building is certainly more than what it would cost if a private contractor constructed it? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It is not so. The difference would arise on account of the nature of the soil and the nature of the designs."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that in the Bellary Headquarters Hospital a gentleman wanted to construct a maternity home at a cost of Rs. 25,000, that the Public Works Department demanded Rs. 75,000 and that in the end the gentleman himself finished the building within the estimated cost of Rs. 25,000? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" That was because the Public Works Department insisted on a better quality of building. We could have given designs even for Rs. 15,000."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will the Government permit such donors hereafter to construct the buildings themselves and hand them over instead of asking the Public Works Department to undertake the construction of such buildings? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir. The Government are issuing revised rules in the matter."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is it not really an aspersion not only on the expensiveness of the Government organization but also on their efficiency when it is stated that to dig a well which costs only Rs. 600 for a private individual, it would cost Rs. 3,000 for the Public Works Department? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" No such aspersion was meant in the observation of the Hon. Minister."